

Farm Topics.

OATS ON WINTER-KILLED WHEAT. Tried an experiment last year, which it seems to me can be repeated this spring by many farmers with benefit. I had an acre or more of wheat which was sown very late, and was so winter-killed that scarcely a spear of it could be seen when the ground began to thaw out. Not wishing to lose the use of this ground, and in order to save work, as soon as a man could walk over the land without miring, or going over his boots in the soft places, oats were sown broadcast, about one bushel to an acre. They sank into the mud, and after freezing and thawing several times, the ground at last settled, and the weather becoming warm enough, the oats sent out a root down into the ground and a shoot upward—those on top of the ground doing just as well as the grains which had become covered up. These oats were up and green all over the land almost a month before the land would have been fit for working to put them in.

I am satisfied that this is the best way to put in all wet ground when a crop of oats is desired. The land should be fitted the fall before, just the same as it sown, and in the spring the seed should be sown as soon as a man can walk over it with any comfort. Harrowing is not at all necessary if the seed is put in early, so as to have the advantages of the early rains.

If the grain can be kept swollen, so as to send out roots, it is safe. It will always be kept moist enough, so long as the earth is wet, without rain, as the grain will absorb moisture from the ground. There is no trouble about this part of the plan. I have been driven from a field by a rain storm before the grain was harrowed in, and the crop did well.

The point is, moisture is more important than covering. Sowing early secures enough moisture even though the season at seed time may be dry. Sowing the seed when the frost is coming out makes the securing of moisture a certainty. I have no doubt that better crops of spring wheat could be had by fitting the land in autumn and sowing the seed when the frost was coming out, and the surface of the ground was very wet, as in this way the best part of the season for growth would be taken advantage of.

This spring there will be thousands of acres (more likely millions) where the winter wheat will be killed, or if not all killed, it will be weakened and thinned by the severe exposure it has had, and is now undergoing, in many sections of the country. My plan would be to sow spring wheat on the top of the ground on all fields and spots where the winter wheat is unprospering, and leave it to take care of itself. It will come on and can be harvested with the winter wheat. By so doing a good crop on good land can be secured, and no additional labor. When spring wheat cannot be secured, and the supply is of course limited in the older States, I should sow oats and harvest them with the crop. They will do well if the land has been well prepared for the wheat, and it is far better to get a good crop of oats, with the wheat which may grow, than a crop of chess, which is sure to come in on all the bare spots, and all sorts of weeds. I never harvested a greater crop of oats on the same amount of land than grew on the wheat ground I have described.

If it is more important to have a good seedling than to grow a full crop on the land, then it would be well not to sow any oats on the wheat ground, as the oats will probably choke out the grass seed somewhat. The grass seed will do a great deal better, however, than when sown with oats at the time oats are usually put in later in the spring. The grass seed should be sown on the wheat land as early as possible, and it may be sown before it would answer to sow the oats. The grass seed may be sown while the snow is on the ground, and do well. I suppose oats can be sown as early, so far as their germinating is concerned, because oats scattered on the ground in the autumn will grow in the spring. But I should prefer to sow them when the ground was breaking up, so that they would not wash away, and the birds would not have an opportunity to eat so many before they grew, and if sown as early as this, they will then be on the ground some time before the weather will be warm enough for them to grow.

If the wheat is all killed, not less than two bushels of oats should be sown on an acre, and a less quantity according to the amount of wheat. Oats do not require as mellow ground as barley, peas, and some other grain, as they are more like wheat, and if the surface is mellow, they do better with a more compact soil underneath. The frost in coming out mowers the surface and also underneath, so that when the seed is put in early it has the advantage of nature's tillage, which is enough.—*F. D. Curtis in Country Gentleman.*

A BUTTER AND MILK TEST.

[Correspondence National Stockman.]

I wish to make a test report as to the profits of milk over butter. As quite a number of farmers, here and elsewhere, claim there is as much money in butter as in selling milk or raising wool, I thought I would test the matter for my own personal benefit. My test was on a small scale, but I will report it for the benefit of others. I have a grade Short-horn cow that is fresh. In the last 30 days she milked 139 gallons. We churned the cream, making 48 pounds of butter, besides what cream we used for a family of three. We sold our butter at 20 cents

per pound, or \$9.60. If we had sold the milk, at 16 cents per gallon (what the shippers received, clear of freight) we would have realized \$22.24. In justice to the butter record we should allow \$1.50 extra for cream used, making \$11.16. Still we have a balance in favor of milk of \$11.14. Now what was the cost of keep? Corn fodder, 1 1/2 sheaves, 5¢; 12 lbs. of chopped feed, 12¢; a small forkful of hay, 5¢; total 22¢, per day; for 30 days, \$6.60; profit on butter record, \$4.58; on milk, \$14.64. Now I would like for the butter advocates to show up and prove that there is any money at all in making butter. I think there is not. Of course this record shows a profit, but I consider this a fair butter and milk cow combined. We scalped her feed. If butter makers and milk producers would sell one-half their cows and give the remainder scalped feed, in my opinion they would nearly double their money, and save so much feed. I am now convinced a farmer can't make it pay making butter and selling it to the huckster, with the best of cows.

COMMERCIAL VALUES.

[From the County Gentleman.]

Mr. D. W. Lewis of New York has compiled the following table, showing approximately (on the basis of 46,613 quarts of milk to 100 lbs.) the worth of the raw product compared with rates of butter and cheese:

Price per	Equal cents	Equal cents	Equal cents
Quarts	in butter,	in cheese,	in cheese.
20	12	17½	5
25	17	21	8
30	22	25	9
35	27	31	10
40	32	36	11
45	37	41	12
50	42	46	13
55	47	51	14
60	52	56	15
65	57	61	16
70	62	66	17
75	67	71	18
80	72	76	19
85	77	81	20
90	82	86	21
95	87	91	22
100	92	96	23
105	97	101	24
110	102	106	25
115	107	111	26
120	112	116	27
125	117	121	28
130	122	126	29
135	127	131	30
140	132	136	31
145	137	141	32
150	142	146	33
155	147	151	34
160	152	156	35
165	157	161	36
170	162	166	37
175	167	171	38
180	172	176	39
185	177	181	40
190	182	186	41
195	187	191	42
200	192	196	43
205	197	201	44
210	202	206	45
215	207	211	46
220	212	216	47
225	217	221	48
230	222	226	49
235	227	231	50
240	232	236	51
245	237	241	52
250	242	246	53
255	247	251	54
260	252	256	55
265	257	261	56
270	262	266	57
275	267	271	58
280	272	276	59
285	277	281	60
290	282	286	61
295	287	291	62
300	292	296	63
305	297	301	64
310	302	306	65
315	307	311	66
320	312	316	67
325	317	321	68
330	322	326	69
335	327	331	70
340	332	336	71
345	337	341	72
350	342	346	73
355	347	351	74
360	352	356	75
365	357	361	76
370	362	366	77
375	367	371	78
380	372	376	79
385	377	381	80
390	382	386	81
395	387	391	82
400	392	396	83
405	397	401	84
410	402	406	85
415	407	411	86
420	412	416	87
425	417	421	88
430	422	426	89
435	427	431	90
440	432	436	91
445	437	441	92
450	442	446	93
455	447	451	94
460	452	456	95
465	457	461	96
470	462	466	97
475	467	471	98
480	472	476	99
485	477	481	100
490	482	486	101
495	487	491	102
500	492	496	103
505	497	501	104
510	502	506	105
515	507	511	106
520	512	516	107
525	517	521	108
530	522	526	109
535	527	531	110
540	532	536	111
545	537	541	112
550	542	546	113
555	547	551	114
560	552	556	115
565	557	561	116
570	562	566	117
575	567	571	118
580	572	576	119
585	577	581	120
590	582	586	121
595	587	591	122
600	592	596	123
605	597	601	124
610	602	606	125
615	607	611	126
620	612	616	127
625	617	621	128
630	622	626	129
635	627	631	130
640	632	636	131
645	637	641	132
650	642	646	133
655	647	651	134
660	652	656	135
665	657	661	136
670	662	666	137
675	667	671	138
680	672	676	139
685	677	681	140
690	682	686	141
695	687	691	142
700	692	696	143
705	697	701	144
710	702	706	145
715	707	711	146
720	712	716	147
725	717	721	148
730	722	726	149
735	727	731	150
740	732	736	151
745	737	741	152
750	742	746	153
755	747	751	154
760	752	756	155
765	757	761</td	